



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/583,253

06/16/2006

Eiji Yamamoto

Q95326

9117

23373 7590 04/22/2008
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

DIAO, M BAYE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2838

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/22/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/583,253	Applicant(s) YAMAMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner M'BAYE DIAO	Art Unit 2838	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1- 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sawa et al., (Sawa) US PAT 6,351,397.

3. As per claims 1 - 4, Sawa discloses (abstract; col. 2, lines 35+;col. 5, lines 29+;cols. 6 -7; col.8, lines 1-60) and show in Figs. 1 - 6:

an input voltage detection apparatus, for a PWM

cycloconverter that is a power converter wherein individual

phases (r or s or t) of three-phase AC power (1) are directly connected (via switches (3) to (20)) to

individual phases (u,v,w) of a three-phase output of the power converter by employing a

bidirectional semiconductor switch ((3 and 4),(5 and 6),(7 and 8),(9 and 10)....(19 and

20), see Figs. 1, and 6-7) that is formed by combining two unidirectional semiconductor

switches (for example (3) and (4)), to which a current is supplied only in one direction

(because of the series connected diodes) and which are capable of independently being

turned on and off (since the unidirectional semiconductor switches are connected in

parallel, also see col. 2, lines 44-55), the input voltage detection apparatus comprising:

an input power voltage phase detector (30), for detecting a phase of the three-phase AC

power (1); an artificial DC bus voltage detector (22), for employing the three-phase AC power (1) and the phase detected by the input power voltage phase detector (30) to detect an artificial DC bus voltage (50) that represents a magnitude of the three-phase AC power (1) as a difference between a maximum value (V_p) and a minimum value (V_n) (via the gate signal combining section (24), see col. 6, lines 40+);

an ideal input voltage calculator (24), for calculating an ideal input voltage value (V_m) based on an effective value of the artificial bus voltage (50) and the phase of the input voltage (detected by input voltage information detection system);

an input voltage upper and lower limit calculator (24) (since the gate signal combining section outputs the result of $\text{Oring } G_{1xy}, G_{1yyx}, G_{2xy}, G_{2yx}$ as G_{xy}, G_{yx} , see Fig. 4), for calculating a permissible width (permissible being $V_p - V_n$) defined by upper (V_p) and lower (V_n) limits for the obtained ideal input voltage value (V_m); and

a voltage comparator (117), for comparing a voltage value detected by the pseudo DC bus voltage detector with the permissible width ($V_p - V_n$) defined by the upper (V_p) and lower (V_n) limits, which are obtained by the input voltage upper and lower limit calculator (24),

wherein an output of the voltage comparator (117) (see Fig. 5) is adjusted, so that a voltage value (V_m) detected (which falls within the lower (V_n) and upper (V_p) limits) by the artificial DC bus (50) (since the protection switching means (50) is responsive for turning on and off the unidirectional semiconductor switches of the PWM cycloconverter based on the fault signal output from the detection means whenever a fault signal occurs, see abstract) voltage detector falls within the permissible width defined by the

upper (V_p) and lower (V_n) limits, which are obtained by the input voltage upper (V_p) and lower (V_n) limit calculator (24) (claims 2 & 4).

Accordingly, claims 1 - 4 are anticipated.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 02/19/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

5. Applicant argues that item 30 cannot be considered as an input phase voltage detector.

6. Examiner respectfully disagrees and submits that Sawa discloses that input voltage information is estimated based on the phase of a power supply voltage output from a power supply voltage detection circuit. Therefore from the voltage phase detection circuit (30), phase can be unequivocally determined, since these are 3 phases AC voltages, they have magnitude and phase(see col. 5, lines 60+;col. 7, lines 38+).

7. Applicant argues that items 22 and 50 of Sawa cannot be considered to provide the functionality of detecting an artificial DC bus voltage that represents the magnitude of three-phase AC power as a difference between a maximum value and a minimum value. Likewise, for similar reasons item 24 cannot be considered to be equivalent to an ideal voltage selector.

8. Examiner respectfully disagrees and submits that Sawa discloses (col. 1, lines 29+; col. 2, lines) the input voltage detection apparatus comprising:
an input power voltage phase detector (30), for detecting a phase of the three-phase AC

power (1); an artificial DC bus voltage detector (22), for employing the three-phase AC power (1) and the phase detected by the input power voltage phase detector (30) to detect an artificial DC bus voltage (50) that represents a magnitude of the three-phase AC power (1) as a difference between a maximum value (V_p) and a minimum value (V_n) (via the gate signal combining section (24), see col. 6, lines 40+);

an ideal input voltage calculator (24), for calculating an ideal input voltage value (V_m) based on an effective value of the artificial bus voltage (50) and the phase of the input voltage (detected by input voltage information detection system);

an input voltage upper and lower limit calculator (24) (since the gate signal combining section outputs the result of $\text{Oring } G_{1xy}, G_{1yyx}, G_{2xy}, G_{2yx}$ as G_{xy}, G_{yx} , see Fig. 4), for calculating a permissible width (permissible being $V_p - V_n$) defined by upper (V_p) and lower (V_n) limits for the obtained ideal input voltage value (V_m).

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M'BAYE DIAO whose telephone number is (571)272-6127. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00; First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Akm Ullah can be reached on Monday through Thursday at 571-272-2361361. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Adolf Berhane/
Adolf Berhane
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2838

/M. D./